

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

MCT-01 /069 W

-----151104Z 036937 /11

R 150753Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6516

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, TH, MY

SUBJECT: BORDER SECURITY: SECOND JOINT THAI-MALAYSIAN OPERATION

LAUNCHED

REF: (A) KUALA LUMPUR 1441 (DTG 080700Z MAR 77)

(B) KUALA LUMPUR 0881 (DTG 080827Z FEB 77)

1. LOCAL PRESS ANNOUNCED TODAY (MARCH 15) THAT MALAYSIA AND THAILAND LAUNCHED JOINT OPERATION MARCH 14 AGAINST ESTIMATED 200-250 ARMED COMMUNIST ELEMENTS BELIEVED REGROUPING NEAR VILLAGE OF KAULANGKUN IN SADA0 AREA OF SOUTH THAILAND. ACCORDING PRESS ITEMS, OPERATION BIG STAR II IS A FOLLOWUP TO OPERATION BIG STAR I WHICH RAN FROM JAN 14 TO FEB 5 AGAINST CPM (REVOLUTIONARY FACTION) WHICH OPERATES IN VICINITY. (CPM-RF WITH ESTIMATED 200-300 ARMED TERRORISTS IS SMALLEST AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LEAST ACTIVE OF THREE CPM FACTIONS.) SOME 5,000 THAI AND MALAYSIAN SECURITY FORCES PERSONNAL (MALAYSIAN ARMY AND POLICE FIELD FORCES AND THAI BORDER PATROL POLICE) ARE REPORTEDLY ENGAGED IN THIS OPERATION.

2. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST JOINT OPERATION

CONDUCTED UNDER TERMS OF REFERENCE OF NEW
GENERAL BORDER AGREEMENT SIGNED IN BANGKOK
MARCH 4 (REF A). PREVIOUS OPERATION WAS
SIGNIFICANT MAINLY FROM PSYCHOLOGICAL
STANDPOINT IN DEMONSTRATING INVIGORATED BORDER
SECURITY COOPERATION BETWEEN RTG AND GOM AND
SERVING NOTICE TO COMMUNIST TERRORISTS THAT
SECURITY OF SANCTUARIES ON THAI SIDE OF BORDER
COULD NO LONGER BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED, ALTHOUGH
OPERATIONS RESULTS WERE NEGLIGIBLE (EST. 17CT'S
KILLED 25 WOUNDED, AGAINST "FRIENDLY" CASUALTIES
OF TWO KILLED AND SEVERAL WOUNDED BY BOOBY TRAPS,
NINE CT BASES OVERRUN AND "DESTROYED" AND 5,000
ROUNDS M-16 AMMO CAPTURED). THAI MILITARY
COMMANDER MAJ. GEN. YUTASAK EXPRESSED DETERMINATION
TO "ACHIEVE BETTER RESULTS," DECLARING "THIS
TIME WE BELIEVE WE WILL NOT MISS THEM."
UNDERHILL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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